

## FACT SHEET

### Project Title

Georgia Strait Crossing Project

### Proposed Action

The proposed action is the Georgia Strait Crossing (GSX) Pipeline. The U.S. portion of the pipeline is part of a larger project jointly sponsored by British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority (BC Hydro) and Williams Gas Pipeline Company. The project calls for the design, construction, and operation of two interconnecting natural gas pipelines, one in Canada and one in the U.S. The pipelines will transport natural gas from Sumas, Washington, to Vancouver Island, British Columbia.

The pipeline is a component of the proposed Vancouver Island Generation Project (VIGP), also proposed by BC Hydro, that would build a gas-fired power plant on Vancouver Island. The GSX pipeline would supply gas to the power plant. On September 8, 2003, the British Columbia Utilities Commission (BCUC) denied the VIGP application and recommended that BC Hydro proceed with a new analysis of alternatives to supply Vancouver Island's energy needs.

In response to the BCUC ruling, BC Hydro issued a "Call For Tenders" (CFT) on October 31, 2003. Under that process, BC Hydro will accept and evaluate new proposals for energy generation and supply. An Independent Reviewer will evaluate the proposals and recommend a preferred option. At the time of publication of this Final Supplemental EIS, 23 bidders had registered. Some bidders are proposing new sources of power, whereas others would likely be interested in assuming control of VIGP's assets and completing a gas-fired plant similar to VIGP. This process is expected to be complete by the end of September 2004. Although the effects of this new Canadian process on the overall GSX pipeline are uncertain, it may result in delays in project permitting or construction.

### Alternatives

**Terasen Gas Alternative** – Under this alternative, Terasen Gas Vancouver Island (TGVI) would undertake phased expansion of its current natural gas distribution system that serves Vancouver Island. This includes construction of up to three new compression stations, pipeline looping of approximately 45.3 miles of existing pipeline, and construction of a liquid natural gas facility with a storage capacity of 1 billion standard cubic feet.

**No Action Alternative** – Under the No Action Alternative, the GSX pipeline would not be constructed. Without the pipeline, other projects may assist in reducing the demand for natural gas on Vancouver Island. An example is a proposal by Norske Skog Canada Limited (NorskeCanada). NorskeCanada has proposed installing new electrical power cogeneration facilities at three of its mills, combined with energy conservation and demand management practices.

**Proponent** Georgia Strait Crossing Pipeline LP (GSX-US)/BC Hydro

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**Permits and Approvals** **Washington Department of Ecology**

Section 401 Water Quality Certification  
Storm Water Discharge Permit  
Point Source Discharge Permit  
Coastal Zone Management Act consistency determination  
State Clean Water Act (RCW 90.48)  
Solid Waste Disposal  
Coastal Zone Management Program  
Permit to Appropriate Water  
State Environmental Policy Act

**Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife**

Hydraulic Project Approval - freshwater and marine  
State Aquatic Nuisance Species Act

## **Washington State Department of Transportation**

Road crossing permits

## **Washington Department of Community, Trade, and Economic Development**

Growth Management Act consistency

Implementation of Section 106, National Historic Preservation Act

## **Washington Department of Natural Resources**

Aquatics Land Lease

Forest Practices Act compliance

## **Northwest Air Pollution Control Authority**

Order of Approval Permit

## **Whatcom County**

Conditional Use Permit

Shoreline Substantial Development Permit/Conditional Use Permits

Critical Areas Ordinance

Road Crossing Permits

Waste Management

Comprehensive Plan Amendment

Zoning Reclassification

## **San Juan County**

Shoreline Substantial Development Permit

### **Final Supplemental EIS Authors and Principal Contributors**

This ~~Draft~~Final Supplemental EIS was prepared for the Washington Department of Ecology, the SEPA Lead Agency.

**Shapiro and Associates, Inc.** prepared the Draft and Final Supplemental EIS.

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**Location of Background Material**     Department of Ecology  
Northwest Regional Office  
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Bellevue, WA 98008-5452

**To Obtain a Copy of the Final Supplemental EIS**     Copies of the ~~Draft~~ Final Supplemental EIS are available for public review at the following locations:

Department of Ecology  
Northwest Regional Office  
3190 160th Avenue SE  
Bellevue, WA 98008-5452

Copies of the ~~Draft~~ Final Supplemental EIS can also be obtained by telephone at (425) 649-4310 or through mail orders. Please send your request to:

Department of Ecology  
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Attention: Sheila Hosner

Copies of the ~~Draft~~ Final Supplemental EIS also will be available on Ecology's and GSX-US's Web sites and at the following local libraries: Ferndale, Sumas, Lynden, and San Juan.